

to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3461, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3461) to approve a governing international fishery treaty agreement between the United States and Poland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3461) was deemed read a third time, and passed.

CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF A BILL

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 352 which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H. Con. Res. 352) directing the clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of a bill.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 352) was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. I now ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed en bloc to consider the following resolutions: S. Res. 285, S. Res. 293, S. Res. 294, S. Res. 298, S. Con. Res. 122, H. Con. Res. 185, H. Con. Res. 224, H. Con. Res. 254 and H. Con. 277. I ask unanimous consent that the Lugar amendment numbered 3834 to S. Res. 285 and the Abraham amendment No. 3835 to S. Res. 298 be agreed to, the resolutions and preambles be agreed to en bloc. I further ask that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4083, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measures be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN GABON

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution (S. Res. 285) expressing the

sense of the Senate that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure elections to be held in Gabon in December 1998 are free and fair.

The amendment (No. 3834) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:
That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends those Gabonese who have demonstrated their love for free and fair elections;

(2) commends the Government of Gabon for inviting the International Foundation for Election Systems to perform a pre-election assessment study;

(3) calls on the Government of Gabon to—

(A) take further measures to ensure the organization and administration of a transparent and credible election and to ensure that the national election commission is able to independently carry out its duties; and

(B) further welcome the International Foundation for Election Systems, the National Democratic Institute, the International Republican Institute, and other appropriate national and international non-governmental organizations to aid the organization of, and to monitor, the December 1998 Presidential election in Gabon, in an effort to assist the government in ensuring that the elections are free and fair;

(4) urges the United States Government to continue to work with the international community, and through appropriate non-governmental organizations, to help create an environment which guarantees free and fair elections; and

(5) urges the United States Government and the international community to continue to encourage and support the institutionalization of democratic processes and the establishment of conditions for good governance in Gabon.

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Gabon is a heavily forested and oil-rich country on the west coast of Central Africa;

Whereas Gabon gained independence from France in 1960;

Whereas Gabon is scheduled to hold national elections in December 1998 for the purpose of electing a President;

Whereas the Government of Gabon was subject to single-party rule until 1990 and only one person has held the office of the President since 1967;

Whereas the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and the African American Institute (AAI) served as observers during the organization of the 1993 Presidential and legislative elections in Gabon and found widespread electoral irregularities;

Whereas the Government of Gabon is a signatory to the Paris Accords of 1994, which was approved by national referendum in July 1995, and was instituted to provide for a state of law guaranteeing basic individual freedoms and the organization of free and fair elections under a new independent national election commission;

Whereas the people of Gabon have demonstrated their support for the democratic process through the formation of numerous political parties since 1990 and their strong participation in prior elections; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to promote political and economic freedom in Africa and throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

The title was amended so as to read as follows: "Expressing the sense of the Senate that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the elections to be held in Gabon are free and fair."

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 285), as amended, was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE FOR THE RETURN OF NADIA DABBAGH

The resolution (S. Res. 293) expressing the sense of the Senate that Nadia Dabbagh should be returned home to her mother, Ms. Maureen Dabbagh was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 293), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 293

Whereas Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh and Mrs. Maureen Dabbagh had a daughter, Nadia Dabbagh, in 1990;

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh and Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh were divorced in February 1992;

Whereas in 1993, Nadia was abducted by her father;

Whereas Mohamad Dabbagh later fled the country with Nadia;

Whereas the governments of Syria and the United States have granted child custody to Maureen Dabbagh and both have issued arrest warrants for Mohamad Dabbagh;

Whereas Mohamad Dabbagh has escaped to Saudi Arabia;

Whereas the United States Department of State believes Nadia now resides in Syria;

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh, with the assistance of missing children organizations, has been unable to reunite with her daughter;

Whereas the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Interpol have been unsuccessful in their attempts to bring Nadia back to the United States;

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh has not seen her daughter in over five years; and

Whereas it will take the continued effort and pressure on the part of Syrian officials to bring this case to a successful conclusion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Governments of the United States and Syria immediately locate Nadia and deliver her safely to her mother.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO MALAYSIA

The resolution (S. Res. 294) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to developments in Malaysia and the arrest of Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 294), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 294

Whereas on September 2, 1998, Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad dismissed Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim;

Whereas, over the past year, Dato Seri Anwar has advocated adopting meaningful economic structural reforms to combat an increasingly deteriorating economy—a view which runs counter to those of Dr. Mahathir;

Whereas, after being dismissed, Dato Seri Anwar began touring the country and publicly criticizing Dr. Mahathir and the policies of the ruling United Malays National Organization Baru (UMNO) party;

Whereas in apparent reaction to this criticism Dato Seri Anwar was arrested on September 20, 1998, and held under the provisions of the Malaysian Internal Security Act (ISA);

Whereas the ISA removes arrested individuals from the protections afforded criminal defendants under Malaysia's constitution and statutes, and consequently Dato Seri Anwar was held in an undisclosed location without any formal charges being lodged against him;

Whereas on September 29, 1998, Dato Seri Anwar was formally charged with nine counts of corruption and sexual misconduct, including four sodomy counts, to which another count was later added;

Whereas the vague nature of the charges, as well as the fact that two of the government's "witnesses" have already recanted, could reasonably lead to a conclusion that the charges were manufactured by the government for maximum shock value to discredit Dato Seri Anwar and silence him;

Whereas, when Dato Seri Anwar appeared at his arraignment, he had been beaten by police while in custody; and told the judge that on his first night of detention, while handcuffed and blindfolded, that he was "boxed very hard on my head and lower jaw and left eye . . . I was then slapped very hard, left and right, until blood came out from my nose and my lips cracked. Because of this I could not walk or see properly";

Whereas, to substantiate his claims, Dato Seri Anwar showed the court a large bruise on his arm; his swollen black eye was evident to everyone in the courtroom;

Whereas Dr. Mahathir suggested that Dato Seri Anwar inflicted the injuries to himself in order to gain public sympathy;

Whereas since its independence Malaysia has been transformed from a divided multi-racial developing nation into a modern, cosmopolitan, economically sophisticated country; and

Whereas the Government's actions in case of Dato Seri Anwar seriously damage the reputation of Malaysia in the eyes of rest of the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Malaysian Government should take every step to safeguard the rights of Dato Seri Anwar, ensure that any charges brought against him are not spurious, afford him a fair and open trial, and fully investigate and prosecute those responsible for his mistreatment while in detention; and

(2) all Malaysians should be permitted to express their political views in a peaceful and orderly fashion without fear of arrest or intimidation.

CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SIERRA LEONE

The Senate proceeded to consider an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 298) condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

The amendment (No. 3825), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF violence against civilians continues with more than 500 survivors of atrocities, including gunshot wounds, amputations or rape;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that only 1 in 4 victims of mutilation actually makes it to medical help;

Whereas the use and recruitment of children as combatants in this conflict has been widespread, including forcible abduction of children by AFRC and RUF rebels;

Whereas UNICEF estimates the number of children forcibly abducted since March 1998 exceeds 3,000;

Whereas the consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of over 250,000 displaced Sierra Leoneans in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the Governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, and sanitation, and medical, educational, psychological, and social services;

Whereas starvation and hunger-related deaths have begun in the north where more than 500 people have died since August 1, 1998, a situation that will only get worse in the next months;

Whereas the humanitarian community is unable, because of continuing security concerns, to deliver food and medicine to the vulnerable groups within the north and east of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States and its peacekeeping arm, the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG), are doing their best, but are still lacking in the logistic support needed to either bring this AFRC and RUF rebel war to a conclusion or force a negotiated settlement;

Whereas arms and weapons continue to be supplied to the AFRC and RUF in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas the United Nations Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Refugees International, following visits to Sierra Leone in May and June 1998, condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrible human rights violations done to civilians by the AFRC and RUF rebels; and

Whereas the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, following a May 1998 visit to Sierra Leone, called upon the United Nations to make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects for the rehabilitation of child combatants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the President and the Secretary of State to give high priority to solving the conflict in Sierra Leone and to bring stability to West Africa in general;

(2) condemns the use by all parties of children as combatants, in particular their forcible abduction by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front, in the conflict in Sierra Leone;

(3) calls on rebel forces to permit the establishment of a secure humanitarian corridor to strategic areas in the north and east of Sierra Leone for the safe delivery of food and medicines by the Government of Sierra Leone and humanitarian agencies already in the country mandated to deliver this aid;

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to strictly enforce the United Nations arms embargo on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary United Front, including the condemnation of other nations found to be not in compliance with the embargo;

(5) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to encourage the contribution of peacekeeping forces by member governments of the Economic Community of West African States to its peacekeeping arm, ECOMOG;

(6) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to support the appeal of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for aid to Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea, Liberia, and elsewhere, as well as other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working in Sierra Leone to bring humanitarian relief and peace to the country, including support the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone;

(7) urges the President and the Secretary of State to take a more comprehensive and focused approach to its relief, recovery and development assistance program in Sierra Leone and to continue to support the Government of Sierra Leone in its Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DDRP) for the country as peace becomes a reality;

(8) urges the President and the Secretary of State to work with the Government of Sierra Leone, with organizations of civil society and with ECOMOG in their efforts to promote and protect human rights, including respect for international humanitarian law;

(9) encourages and supports the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, to continue efforts to work in Sierra Leone to establish programs designed to rehabilitate child combatants; and

(10) urges all parties to make a concerted effort toward peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 298), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise on the occasion of the Senate's passage, by unanimous consent, of Senate Resolution 298, condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone. I would like to thank my colleagues, particularly the members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, for their support, as well as their quick action on this important legislation. While the resolution speaks for itself in its condemnation of atrocities and insistence that all people abide by international standards of decency, allow me to make just a few points.

On a number of occasions, Mr. President, I have come to the floor to insist that America's status as the world's first free nation, and the continuing leader of the free world, imposes certain responsibilities on us. Most important, our status imposes on us the duty to speak out and where possible act to prevent gross violations of basic human rights. Yet at this very moment there is a crisis in the Sierra Leone of tragic proportions, in which truly unbelievable atrocities are being committed against the civilian population.

Mr. President, we should not permit this tragedy to go unnoticed and we should not permit the war crimes being committed there to be committed with impunity.